

—21. An audio player with an interchangeable data carrier for audio data, the audio player comprising:

at least one micro-controller in communication with a peripheral keyboard;

a data connection between said at least one micro-controller and a decompression circuit;

an MM card adapted to be inserted into a slot of the audio player, the MM card having a first data connection with said at least one micro-controller and a second data connection in communication with said decompression circuit, the decompression circuit in further communication with a D/A converter; and,

a playback unit in communication with an output of D/A converter.

22. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein the audio player 1 further comprises an interface in communication with a data source, the interface and said data source in further communication with the said micro-controller.

23. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said micro-controller comprises a memory, the memory selected from the group consisting of ROM, RAM, or a combination of ROM and RAM components.

24. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein the MM card further comprises a data controller selected from the group consisting of a microprocessor and an ASIC, and further comprising a memory component.

25. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein the MM card further comprises a signal processor for converting text data into audio data.

26. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said decompression circuit further comprises at least one signal processor and at least one serial, high-speed interface in communication with the MM card.

27. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said audio player further comprises a plurality of MM cards.

28. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said audio player further comprises a graphics display component.

29. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said audio player is integrated with a second audio playback unit and having an additional storage medium.


30. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein the MM card data may be transferred to the decompressor via a pathway through the microcontroller.

31. A method of operating an audio player comprising:
supplying audio data for the audio player via an interface;
transferring the compressed audio data by a micro controller of the audio player into a memory of the MM-card and storing said audio data therein;
transferring said compressed audio data directly from the memory of the MM-card to a decompression circuit;
decompressing said compressed audio data; and,
supplying the decompressed audio data via a D/A-converter to a playback unit.

32. A method of operating an audio player comprising:
supplying compressed audio data for an audio player by means of an interchangeable data carrier;
sending compressed audio data directly from a memory of the said data carrier to a decompression circuit;
decompressing said compressed audio data; and,

sending said data from said D/A-converter to a playback unit.

33. A method of operating an audio player comprising:
supplying audio data to an audio player by means of an interface;
sending said data directly to a decompression circuit;
decompressing said data within said decompression circuit;
transferring said data to a D/A-converter; and,
sending said data from said D/A-converter to a playback unit.

 34. A method of operating an audio player comprising:
supplying a source of audio data for an audio player by means of an
interchangeable data carrier;

transferring said audio data by a micro controller from the memory of said
data carrier to a decompression circuit;

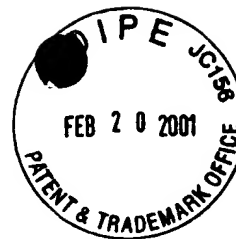
decompressing said data; and,
supplying said data via a D/A-converter to a playback unit.

35. The method according to claim 31 wherein the data transfer rate is at
least about 92 Kbit/s.

36. The method according to claim 31 wherein said micro-controller is
responsive to a keyboard, the keyboard enabling the interruption of audio data
from the MM card upon initiation of select inputs on said keyboard.

37. The method according to claim 36 wherein said interruption of data
transfer is stored in the MM card by a data marker.

38. The method according to claim 31 wherein text data stored on said
MM card is converted through said micro-controller into audio data.



39. The method according to claim 31 wherein selected text data stored in the MM card is controlled by said micro-controller so that said selected text data is reproduced on a display of said playback unit.

40. The method according to claim 38 wherein said text data stored on said MM card is compressed.

41. The method according to claim 31 wherein said micro-controller is responsive to a platform-independent programming language.

42. The method according to claim 31 wherein said compressed audio data may be transferred at selected, different transfer rates to said decompression circuit.

43. The method according to claim 31 wherein said interface is a serial interface.

44. The method according to claim 32 wherein said data carrier is an MM-card.

45. The method according to claim 33 wherein said interface is a serial interface.

46. The method according to claim 34 wherein said interchangeable data carrier is an MM-card. —

REMARKS

By way of the second preliminary amendment, Applicant has cancelled independent claims 1 and 10 and dependent claims 2 and 11. New claims 21 through 46 are presented by consideration by the Examiner.

Applicant's first preliminary amendment had a typographical error incorrectly identifying the page number for amending the specification. By way of the above